

Army in Europe to retain temporary employees

HEIDELBERG, Germany – U.S. Army, Europe (USAREUR) announced today that Army units and communities in Europe will retain temporary employees despite the ongoing Army-wide resource challenges.

“The Army is all about people. That’s why we looked at a number of other options to mitigate the effects of the resource challenge the Army faces. Soldiers, civilians, and the family members who support them are the lifeblood of the Army,” said General McKiernan. USAREUR and IMA-Europe sought and received relief from the recently announced requirement to release temporary employees.

The decision to retain temporary employees applies to all Army in Europe units and communities – including USAREUR/7th Army, IMA-Europe, European Regional Medical Command, 5th Signal Command, and US Army-NATO.

USAREUR and IMA-Europe will also sponsor a summer-hire program for young people. The six-week program will start on June 26th.

Army in Europe units will take other actions to reduce costs including a hold on hiring actions, postponing or canceling non-essential travel and conferences, and redirecting funds from less critical operations. Cost cutting measures will also be applied to logistics functions and contracts.

“IMA-Europe is pleased by the decision of Army leadership to grant relief from termination to our temporary employees. We are also grateful that we will be able to proceed with our summer hire program for our younger family members,” said IMA-Europe Region Director Russell B. Hall.

“We were able to make the case that although budget curtailments are necessary, the cost should not be borne by our temporary employees, many of whom are family members of deployed and deploying service members. Unlike their stateside counterparts, our temporary employees have fewer outside the gate employment opportunities.

We will continue to pursue cost-cutting measures while still providing world-class support to Soldiers and their families.”

Department of the Army planning guidance is to reduce overall spending while ensuring that life, health and safety issues are covered. The priority is to continue critical support to ongoing missions in Iraq and Afghanistan and to readiness activities for units and personnel identified for the OIF/OEF deployment.